

258 West 54th St
New York, Dec. 13th 1904

Mr. John Hay
Washington

My dear Colleague

You doubtless have received from
Mr. R. W. Johnson, Secretary of the
National Institute of Arts and Letters,
his official notification of the distinction
conferred upon you in your election,
by vote of the Institute at large,
as one of the first seven members
of the Academy of Arts and
Letters now in process of organization.

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A like distinction has befallen Messrs
Howells, Pain. Gaudens, La Page,
Clemens, MacTosell, and your lifelong
friend and colleague, the present
writer. We all are impressed by the
spontaneous good judgment of the
wisely-sifted members of the
Institute, in their choice of a
venue representing all the parts
and in a near the locality
most convenient for future
conference and action.

It chances that Mr. Howells is
at present in Europe, and that

you, at your post of duty and world-wide honor at
Washington, must be occupied, even more than usual, at
this engrossing picture of national affairs.

But pray tell me whether you see any chance
of escaping, within a practicable time, from the Capital
for a single day or night in New York. As President
of the Institute, it seems to devolve upon me to call
together the seven Academicians for the conference at
which they are to choose eight colleagues from
the membership of the Institute.

Two of us are resident in New York, and I am
sure that all will gladly admit their own engagements
to the necessities and conveniences of their Washington
colleagues.

I am, with ever increasing regard,

Yours attached friend,

Edmund C. Freeman